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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,719	03/22/2004	Carmen Flosbach	FA1170USNA	9219

23906 7590 07/06/2005

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EXAMINER

PURVIS, SUE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1734

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,719

Applicant(s)

FLOSBACH ET AL.

Examiner

Sue A. Purvis

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1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doi et al. (JP 01-202492).

Regarding claims 1, 8, and 9, Doi discloses a process for the production and use of a transfer film comprising a carrier (backing); a radiation curable transparent coating on the carrier; and an image disposed on the transparent coating.

As to the transfer film and method for its manufacture, as set forth in claims 1 and 8, Doi discloses:

(1) Providing a carrier (backing foil) layer (English Language Translation (hereinafter, "ELT"), pages 5 and 6);

(2) Disposing on the carrier, a layer comprising a transparent radiation-curable resin (ELT, pages 6-11);

(3) Disposing on the layer of transparent radiation-curable resin, a patterned image layer (ELT, pages 12-13);

As to the method of using the transfer film, as set forth in claim 9, Doi discloses (ELT, pages 17 and 18):

(1) Providing a substrate;

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(2) Disposing the surface of the transfer film opposite the carrier against the substrate;

(3) Removing the carrier layer; and

(4) Curing the transparent radiation-curable transfer layer.

Regarding claim 2, Doi discloses that the patterned image may comprise colored images formed through the use of ink applied either directly by printing or indirectly, i.e., such as by transfer (ELT, pages 11 and 12).

Regarding claims 4, 11 and 12, Doi discloses that the solid, radiation-curable resin may comprise either epoxy group or vinyl group (methyl methacrylate) functionality (ELT, pages 6-8) and is curable by either UV or electron beam radiation (ELT, page 11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, further in view of Wagner et al. (US Patent No. 6,486,903).

Doi, as set forth above, discloses that the pattern layer may be provided by printing. Although they do not specifically disclose that the printing is accomplished by way of ink-jet printing, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize such a printing method in the invention of Doi motivated by the fact that Wagner, also drawn to a process for the production and use of a transfer film comprising a carrier (backing); a radiation curable coating on the carrier; and an image disposed on the

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transparent coating (abstract; Figures 1-6; column 4, lines 23-42), disclose that the printing of the image may be accomplished by any known method including ink-jet (column 6, lines 50-55).

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi, as applied to claim 1, further in view of Oshima et al. (US Patent No. 5,427,997).

Doi discloses the use of a radiation-curable protective layer but are silent as to the inclusion of an inorganic filler, as per claim 5, in an amount relative to the resin solids content.

Nonetheless, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize an inorganic filler in the radiation-curable transparent protective resin of Doi motivated by the fact that Oshima, also drawn to methods for the protection of images utilizing a transferable radiation-curable transparent protective layer (Figure 1; column 4, lines 11-15; column 4, line 45 to column 6, line 29), discloses that the inclusion of an inorganic filler at about 10 wt% of the total resin solids content (column 24, lines 1-11) enables sufficient "film cutting" while maintaining the transparency of the protective film (column 5, lines 28-46).

6. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Shvartsman et al. (US Patent No. 6,245,382).

Doi and Oshima, as combined above, disclose the utilization of a radiation-curable transparent coating which includes an inorganic filler at about 10 wt% of the total resin solids content. Although neither Doi nor Oshima specifically disclose the inclusion of an additional layer of radiation-curable transparent resin applied against the first, as per claim 6, and which has the same resin solids composition as that of the first radiation-curable transparent resin layer, as per claim 7, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the method resulting from the references as

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combined in section (3), above, with two layers of radiation-curable transparent having the same resin solids composition motivated by the fact that Shvartsman, also drawn to methods for the protection of images utilizing a transferable radiation-curable transparent protective layer, disclose the inclusion of more than one layer of protective coating displays a substantial improvement in protection from solvents, plasticizers, and U.V. radiation (abstract; column 21, line 66 to column 22, line 21).

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi as applied to claim 9 above, further in view of Bruns et al. (US Patent No. 4,737,322).

Although Doi et al. is silent as to the utilization of other curing methodologies in place of the radiation curing disclosed, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to substitute thermal curing for the radiation curing of Doi et al. motivated by the fact that Bruns et al., drawn to the curing of transparent resins , teaches that these are conventional and equivalent means for curing "optical;" , i.e., transparent, resins (column 5, lines 20-25).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 25 April 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

9. Applicant's addition of "consisting of" in the body of the preamble and in the body of the claim does not effectively achieve what applicant desires as set forth in their arguments. When the phrase "consists of" appears in a clause of the body of a claim, rather than immediately following the preamble, it limits only the element set forth in that clause; other elements are not excluded from the claim as a whole. *Mannesmann Demag Corp. v. Engineered Metal Products Co.*, 793 F.2d 1279, 230 USPQ 45 (Fed. Cir. 1986). (See MPEP §2111.03.)

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Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

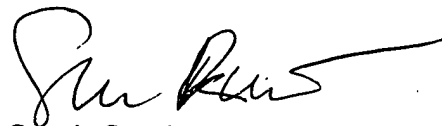
Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sue A. Purvis whose telephone number is (571) 272-1236. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A. Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sue A. Purvis
Primary Examiner
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July 2, 2005